

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 229828  
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-14 PA-02 H-02 ISO-00  
SSM-05 SIG-03 SS-15 /074 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:REUNDELAND:RGH

APPROVED BY NEA/P:REUNDELAND

PA/PRS - MR. CARTER

H - MR. FLATEN

SSM - MR. MC ANDREW

NEA/IAI - MR. KORN

NEA/ARN - MR. HOWELL

NEA/EGY - MR. MARTHINSEN

NEA/ARP - MR. TWINAM

-----082639 112348Z /66

O 112118Z SEP 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION SINAI

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION USNATO

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AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

SECDEF WASHDC 0000  
JCS WASHDC 0000  
CIA WASHDC 0000  
USICA  
NSC  
USCINCEUR VAHINGEN GE  
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS POUCH

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CINCEUR FOR POLAD, TEL AVIV FOR PAO, DELIVER BY 9 A.M.

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - SEPTEMBER 11

1. FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE  
EXCERPTS FROM DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING FOR SEPTEMBER 11,  
1978. SPOKESMAN TODAY WAS HODDING CARTER III.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING ON IRAN AND WHAT THE SITUATION IS  
THERE?

A. DO YOU MEAN SOMETHING SORT OF NEW ON THE SITUATION ON  
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THE GROUND? NOT PARTICULARLY -- NOT BEYOND WHAT YOU HAVE.

Q. ANY ADVISORIES TO THE AMERICANS WHO LIVE THERE?

A. I THINK LAST WEEK I INDICATED WHAT THE POSITION WAS,  
AND I DO NOT KNOW THAT TO HAVE CHANGED. BACKING IT  
AROUND THE OTHER WAY: I DON'T KNOW THAT THAT HAS CHANGED.

I WAS LOOKING AT YOUR CLIPS, AND WHILE FIGURES MAY DIFFER  
SOMEWHAT -- ASSESSMENTS -- DEPENDING ON ONE SERVICE OR  
THE OTHER, OR ONE NETWORK OR THE OTHER, OF WHAT IS  
HAPPENING -- I DON'T HAVE A GREAT DEAL MORE TO OFFER YOU  
ON WHAT IS GOING ON ON THE GROUND.

Q. YOU HAVE RECOMMENDED AN ALL PARTIES CONFERENCE FOR  
RHODESIA AND NICARAGUA. WILL YOU DO THE SAME FOR IRAN?

A. WHAT WE RECOMMEND IN ALL CASES, IS RESTRAINT. WHAT  
WE RECOMMEND IN ALL CASES IS A PEACEFUL SOLUTION.

Q. PEACEFUL AND DEMOCRATIC SOLUTION?

A. THE OBJECTIVE IS WELL KNOWN FOR POLICY FOR US. WE HAPPEN TO THINK THAT IS THE BEST APPROACH IN ALL CASES. I WOULD NOTE WHAT THE PRESIDENT HAD TO SAY ON THE SUBJECT YESTERDAY.

Q. ON FRIDAY YOU INDICATED THAT THE INFORMATION THAT YOU HAD WAS FRAGMENTARY AND YOU WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO MAKE ANY JUDGMENT AS TO ITS IMPORT.

SINCE THEN, THERE SHOULD HAVE BEEN AN OPPORTUNITY TO ASSESS THE SITUATION THERE, AND THE PRESIDENT HAS ALREADY EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN. IS THE UNITED STATES CONCERNED THAT THE SHAH MIGHT BE IN SERIOUS POLITICAL TROUBLE WHICH COULD HAVE VERY FAR REACHING IMPLICATIONS?  
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A. I AM NOT ABLE TO OFFER THAT CHARACTERIZATION. I THINK THE PRESIDENT HAS EXPRESSED HIS FEELINGS ON THIS. I DON'T HAVE MUCH TO GO BEYOND THAT EXCEPT SOMETHING THAT WAS PUT OUT YESTERDAY BY US, WHICH EXPRESSES OUR DEEP REGRET ABOUT THE LOSS OF LIFE IN IRAN, AND EXTENDED THE SYMPATHY OF THIS GOVERNMENT TO THE BEREAVED FAMILIES.

IN THE STATEMENT YESTERDAY BY THE DEPARTMENT WE ALSO, TO REPEAT MYSELF, SAID THAT WE BELIEVE THAT RESTRAINT IN THE USE OF FORCE IS ESSENTIAL IF CALM IS TO BE RESTORED TO THE COUNTRY. WE HOPE THAT THE VIOLENCE WILL END.

AS THE PRESIDENT ALSO NOTED, WE HOPE THAT THE MOVEMENT TOWARD POLITICAL LIBERALIZATION WILL CONTINUE IN IRAN.

Q. DID THE PRESIDENT INDICATE IN HIS TALKS, OR IN HIS PHONE CONVERSATION WITH THE SHAH, ANY LIKELIHOOD THAT THE U.S. MIGHT TAKE FURTHER STEPS TO SUPPORT HIM -- I.E. MILITARILY, IF THE SITUATION DETERIORATES?

A. I THINK THAT THE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT SPEAKS SPECIFICALLY TO WHAT IT WAS THAT HE WANTED TO SAY ABOUT HIS CONVERSATION, AND I AM NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO GO BEYOND THAT.

Q. IS THERE ANY EVIDENCE TO INDICATE THAT THERE MAY BE ANY OUTSIDE COUNTRIES OR FORCES THAT ARE ATTEMPTING TO EXACERBATE THE SITUATION IN IRAN?

A. I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ON THAT. IS THAT A QUESTION YOU ARE PUTTING TO ME?  
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Q. CAN YOU TAKE IT?

A. I WILL HAVE TO TAKE IT.

CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS SUMMARIES  
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**Draft Date:** 11 sep 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
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